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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 21 | Humidity 62% Partly cloudy Sensex 59,689 | Nifty 17,557 | Gold 60,893 | Silver 74,279 | Dollar 81.89 | Euro 89.50 | GBP 102.13

60,000 anganwadi teachers to return smartphones given to them due to 'low storage, network issues, sub-standard battery, lack of updated software'

MOBILE JAMMER

Gadgets were procured at a cost of Rs 65 cr a few years ago

| Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Around 60,000 anganwadi teachers have been struggling to use the smartphones given to them a few years ago by the state's Women and Child Development department.

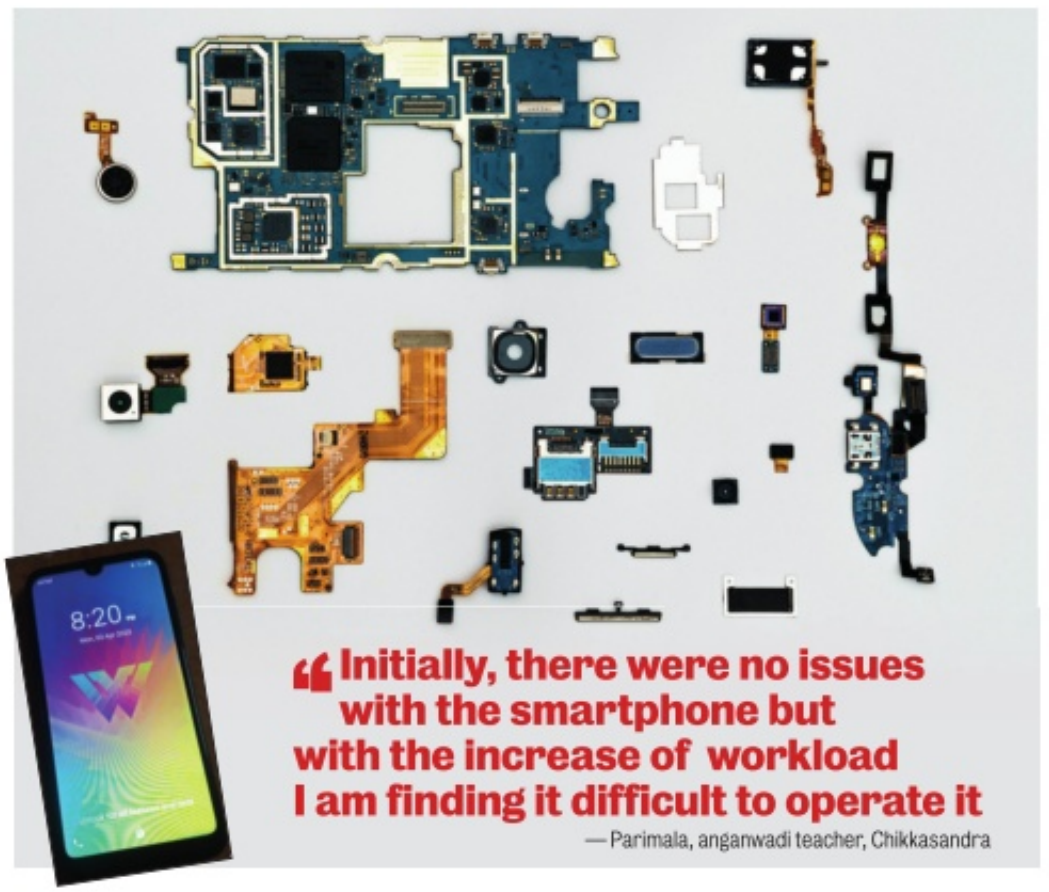
With no other option, they have decided to return these smartphones to the Women and Child Development department shortly. These gadgets were procured at an estimated cost of Rs 65 crore a few years ago.

"I was very happy when I got the smartphone. Initially, there were no issues with the smartphone but with the increase of workload I am finding it difficult to operate it," said Parimala, an anganwadi teacher working at Chikkasandra.

As per the Poshan Abhiyan scheme launched by the Centre, it is mandatory for anganwadi teachers to upload or update daily activities at anganwadi centres on a common application service using the smartphones.

"Under Poshan Abhiyan scheme,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »



"Initially, there were no issues with the smartphone but with the increase of workload I am finding it difficult to operate it
— Parimala, anganwadi teacher, Chikkasandra

Lake back on track

Rejuvenation work at 180-acre Rampura waterbody to be completed in 3 months, officials claim

| Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Rampura Lake, a large waterbody, spread across 180 acres hosts many seasonal migratory birds. The lake was taken up for comprehensive development back in 2021. However, now, after much delay, the work at the lake has gained momentum. It is now close to completion in the next three months.

According to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike's (BBMP) lakes department, over Rs 30 crore funds have been sanctioned for the development which includes fencing of the lake, desilting, creating a bund, wetland alongside a walking and jogging pathway. So far about 60-70% of the work has been completed, according to officials at the department.

"The lake revival works were to be started in the year 2021. However due to the covid-19 pandemic there was a delay. Last year the work had begun, but again there was a problem of unexpected heavy rains and the work couldn't be done at a fast pace. We had to stop, start and stop again. Due to this, many works were pending and the work was slow. However, from the end of last year till now the work has gained momentum and has been ongoing at a quicker pace. Dewatering of the lake was carried out as sewage diversion channels were being created. The pathway is almost done and fencing of the lake will have to be done now. We are aiming to complete the work in the next three months," an official from the department said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Feminine lens

Artflute, the art gallery presents 'Vision of the Feminine', an online exhibition that features 10 artists who are celebrating the feminine. The art show intends to initiate a dialogue to appreciate a complex and nuanced idea of femininity through contemporary art. The works of the ten artists demonstrate how embodying femininity can be reflected in the way one speaks, moves, and interacts with the world through their artistic explorations. **Where: Online; When: Till April 14**

02 Bookworms, unite

Bibliophiles, what are you reading these days? Is there a book or an author that has amazed you recently? Discuss it with like-minded people at this special club for bookworms and share the magic of some wordsmiths who not only influenced us but shaped our lives in some way.
Where: Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar
When: April 8, 4-5 pm; Register: 9886294444

03 Futuristic tech

Infosys Science Foundation is organising an Infosys Prize Lecture by Prof. Suman Chakraborty, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at IIT-Kharagpur and Infosys Prize 2022 laureate in Engineering & Computer Science. The lecture will throw light on his work in creating a new technology to engineer a microvascular network on a chip mimicking human physiology, using a frugal approach that does not demand sophisticated fabrication facilities. **Where: Indian Institute of Science (IISc), CV Raman Road; When: April 6, 4-5 pm**
Contact: 9591117092

XBB variant: All that you need to know

The covid variant cases are mostly mild in nature but easily transmissible; elders and immuno compromised however, are most at risk say experts

Iffath Fathima
Iffath.Fathima
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With covid-19 cases rising, the new Omicron XBB.1.16 variant is found to responsible for the surging numbers.

The XBB variant has so far been mild, but the transmission rate is high.

In Karnataka as well, the percentage of XBB variant cases in the state is high. According to the statistics from Department of Health and Family Welfare, the percentage contribution of XBB variant has been 94.24 per cent between January- March 2023 in comparison to other variants. In the data between January - December 2022, higher prominence of BA 2 variant is at 74.54 per cent.

The Omicron's BA1.1.529 variant of concern (VOC) reported between January- March 2023 was reportedly 0.63 per cent, followed by BA 2 variant at 5.11 per cent. Other variants like ETA, Kappa, Pango contributed to 26.86 per cent. And the highest was XBB variant at 94.24 per cent.

With the increase in number of cases, the state government has already started screening at international airports. As on April 4, Karnataka reportedly has 1411 active cases and majority of the cases are from Bengaluru Urban with 831 active cases.

Health workers collect samples for testing (file image)

Getting the booster dose, wearing masks and avoiding public spaces if infected will help prevent transmission

However, according to the health professionals the cases have so far been mild with no severity. But for those who are elderly and are immunocompromised, the experts have advised to take all the precautionary measures and be vigilant.

Dr CN Manjunath, Director of Jaydeva Hospital said, "The symptoms of XBB variant are similar to previous variants like fever, chills, myalgia, runny nose, sore throat, cough, headache, diarrhoea, vomiting and in severe cases can cause shortness of breath. The immunocompromised can have more severity as their immunity is low comparatively to other. So far, the hospitalisations has been minimal and those who are tested positive for covid 19 are even asymptomatic. They are coming for other illnesses or for surgeries and are later testing positive for covid."

Dr Swati Rajagopal, Consultant- Infectious Disease & Travel Medicine, Aster CMI Hospital, Bengaluru, said it was important for the immunosuppressed population to wear masks in crowded areas to avoid severe infections. Individuals who have not got the third precautionary dose of covid vaccine must get vaccinated. Getting tested and early diagnosis remains the key to management. If one is unwell, it is important to get tested and refrain from going outdoors.

The health professionals have also advised to avoid crowded poorly ventilated areas as it has higher tendency to spread.

For the immunosuppressed patients it is important to wear masks. It is also advisable to get vaccination against influenza and to get the third precautionary dose of covid vaccine that will certainly reduce the severity of infection.

Keeping good health, healthy diet rich in vitamins and antioxidants and maintaining good medical records like stable blood pressure, cardiac status and diabetes would help in reducing the severity of infection, added Dr Rajagopal.

New rules for postgraduate students of VTU

The Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU) has announced regulations for postgraduate programs under outcome-based education and choice-based credit system (2022).

The new regulations bring significant changes compared to the previous ones. One of the most significant changes is the adoption of an absolute grading system where the marks are converted to grades, and every semester's results will be declared with semester grade point average (SGPA) and Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA). The grading system has letter grades and corresponding grade points on a typical 10-point scale.

"The weightage of Continuous Internal Evaluation (CIE) is 50 per cent and that for Semester End Exam (SEE) is 50 per cent. The minimum passing mark for the CIE is 50 per cent of the maximum marks, and that for SEE is 40 per cent maximum marks. A student shall be deemed to have satisfied the academic requirements and earned the credits allotted to each subject/course if the student secures not less than 50 per cent marks in both CIE and SEE put together," said the directive from the varsity.

One of the most significant changes in the new system has been the adoption of an absolute grading model

The regulations also allow for multiple entries and exit points in the academic programs offered at Higher Education Institutions (HEIS) to facilitate flexible learning within the stipulated period (four years for regular students).

Students can exit from the program only at the end of the even semester/s (2nd semester) and re-enter at the beginning of the odd semester/s (3 semester). However, the students who pass all their registered courses of the 1st and 2nd semesters as per the scheme of teaching and examinations and obtain the required credits awarded Post Graduate Diploma Certificate if he/she opts for the exit.

The principles of all the Engineering Colleges are hereby informed to bring to the notice of all concerned, claimed the VTU officials.

VTU issues clarification

VTU has released a draft regulation governing the award of B.E./B.Tech degree. Based on queries from stakeholders, the university has issued a clarification related to Continuous Internal Evaluation (CIE) and Semester End Exam (SEE) for the 2022 scheme.

According to the clarification, the weightage of CIE is 50 per cent and SEE is 50 per cent. The minimum passing marks for CIE and SEE are 40 per cent and 35 per cent of the maximum marks, respectively.

A student must secure a minimum of 40 per cent in the total of CIE and SEE taken together to earn credits allotted to each subject/course. — BMB

‘What happened to funds for repairing stormwater drains?’

Residents wonder what happened to Palike’s promises of fixing waterlogging after downpour

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A screenshot of a video shows the chaos that unfolded in Mahadevapura when it rained on Tuesday

After Tuesday’s downpour, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike’s (BBMP’s) unpreparedness for the monsoon is evident. Just over 30 minutes of rain in some parts of the city has made it clear that the authorities are yet to prove that they have spent tax-payers’ money prudently to mitigate rain-related woes in the city.

Many areas, especially in Mahadevapura Zone, were flooded with rain water causing traffic jams. Hundreds of residents from Varthur and nearby areas struggled a lot to commute on waterlogged roads. Vehicular movement on Croma Road, Belagere-ORR Road was flooded with rain water thus causing a lot of inconvenience to motorists.

“It is a shame on the BBMP authorities who allowed the conversion of waterways into roads. Waterlogging was reported as there was no provision to drain water accumulated on the road. The BBMP Stormwater Drain Department officials have become negligent and apathetic. They are not bothered to ensure stormwater drains are free from misuse and encroachment,” said Jagadeesh Reddy of Varthur Rising.

Condemning the BBMP authorities for lack of commitment and sub-standard work, especially storm water drain work, a resident on the condition of anonymity, said rampant corruption among the authorities is the main reason for the flooding of roads on Tuesday night. “It is not the rainy season. The amount of rain is also not much but the roads are flooded. What happened to the money spent for developing stormwater drains in the area?” the resident asked.

According to the residents, a few waterways have been converted or used as roads and it has resulted in waterlogging at many areas in and around Varthur. “We can’t do anything about the flooding of Croma Road which is a natural waterway. Motorists and pedestrians are using this road during summer and it is full of water during monsoon,” said a BBMP engineer.

The situation was not better at Varthur Kodi and Kadubeesanahalli. Vehicular traffic was affected due to water logging at Varthur Kodi and Kadubeesanahalli and other areas. It was very tough for two-wheeler riders to negotiate potholes due to waterlogging on the roads.

> **“The rainfall was not much but still, the roads were flooded. What happened to the funds?**
>
> –a resident

Meanwhile, BBMP assistant engineer Ramesh blamed the ongoing stormwater drain work near Belagere-ORR Road. “The contractor has blocked the roadside drain with mud thus resulting in waterlogging on this road. I have taken measures to remove the mud. I will focus on this road to avoid waterlogging in future,” the BBMP assistant engineer said.

Tiff with neighbours: Man dies

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

An army official’s brother who was assaulted by his neighbours in a fight, died in the hospital.

Lloyd Nehemiah, 54, on April 2, had an issue with the loud music being played by the techies who lived next door. At that time, Lloyd complained about loud music and said that there are elderly people at his home. The incident took place in Vigyan Nagar near HAL, Bengaluru.

After some time, the techies broke into Lloyd’s house and assaulted him. Lloyd had to be admitted to the hospital.

The HAL police registered an assault case and are currently searching for the accused.

Gold thief arrested

A man who used to steal gold and convert the stolen gold in scrap has been arrested by the police.

The accused, Subrato Mandal, used to steal gold from Mathikere and he had come to Bengaluru from West Bengal six months ago.

At present, he has been arrested and 130 grams of gold and stolen cash has been seized from the accused. Yeswanthpur Police has arrested the accused.

Woman burnt to death

A woman was found dead in a deserted area. According to the police, her body was severely burnt.

The victim, Manjula, 32, was allegedly killed by her lover Narayan, 42. After divorcing her husband, Manjula was living with Narayan for the past ten years. Manjula used to work as a housekeeper.

According to the sources, recently, Narayan was suspicious about Manjula having an illicit relationship with the resident of an apartment. Narayan asked Manjula to quit her job but she refused. Angered by this, he killed her.

Additional SP Purushottam and Hebbagodi police inspected the area.

To vote peacefully, keep the goons away

Cops keep a close watch on rowdy sheeters in Bengaluru amid election season

Ahna Prakash
c-ahna.prakash@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

With the Assembly elections fast approaching, the city police are keeping a close eye on 7,525 rowdy sheeters in Bengaluru as instructed by the Election Commission.

On April 5, Bengaluru CCB police said that they have succeeded in arresting three such goons who have been missing for the past ten years.

The three have been identified as Mohammad Zabiuddin, Mohammad Mehtab and Dinesh. According to the police, there were more than sixty cases against them and they had been on the run for years.

Police are on the lookout for people who have several cases against them or are missing without appearing in the court for trial.

“The police have a list of names and we are keeping an eye on them. We are watching CCTV footage of the area where these goons are active and also monitoring their activities. As the elections are approaching there are chances that these rowdies will try to create nuisance in the society,” said the police.

According to the police, there are more than 47,000 rowdy sheeters in the state who are being monitored.

A week ago, one such criminal, Wilson Garden Naga, who was wanted in more than 20 cases, was expelled from the city by the police. The police said that Naga can only enter the city when the elections are over.

> **Cops are maintaining a list of names and are monitoring their activities and their areas**

Sachin Tantry, Political Consultant, says that this is a welcome step as criminals getting detained would ensure peaceful elections.

“It’s a good thing that people can vote without fear, there is nobody to threaten them to cast their vote for a particular candidate. Such people are fear-mongering and would try to influence elections. But if they are behind the bars then we can expect a peaceful election. This will maintain the law and order in the city; also, it is important that they don’t have any influence over the votes,” he said.

South Korea in B-luru: 10 months to K-100 now

BBMP claims much-publicised Koramangala Raj Canal to be ready in 8-10 months

Y Maheswara Reddy
c-y.reddy@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Thhe much-acclaimed and publicised Koramangala Raj Canal (K-100) is expected to be completed in eight to 10 months. The K-100 project began in March 2021 and was supposed to be completed by March 2023.

"We have completed more than 90 per cent of the work on the first stretch. More than 60 per cent of the work in the remaining two stretches of K-100 project is pending due to some reasons. We are coordinating with the Bengaluru Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) to complete the diversion of sewage water," said a BBMP executive engineer.

He said the BWSSB authorities have to expedite the sewage diversion work. "The improvement in diversion of sewage is not as per the expectations. I hope the K-100 project work will be completed in eight to 10 months," he said, adding that the BBMP is creating a river in the city.

He said two students from France visited the K-100 project and appreciated it. "They have collected data from us. They wanted to make the K-100 project as a case study for them. The World Bank team visited the K-project last October and appreciated it," he said.

The BBMP Chief Commissioner along with engineers at the Koramangala Raj Canal (K-100) project site; the project began in March 2021 and was supposed to be completed by March 2023, but has been delayed now

BM's report on March 16, 2021 spoke about Star Infratech bagging the project

According to the BBMP sources, the 9.6-km long 100-K project has been divided into three stretches. "The work in front of Shantinagar Bus Station is completed. All the infrastructure is in place here where people can sit and relax for a while during the day," he said.

He said that measures were taken to prevent sewage from flowing into the stormwater drain. The major stormwater drain begins from Dharmambudhi Lake (the present Kempe Gowda Bus Station) and ends at Bellandur Lake.

> **"We have completed more than 90% of the work on the first stretch. More than 60% of work in the remaining two stretches is pending**
> – BBMP Exeutive Engineer

The K-100 project is expected to cost around Rs 180 crore for the state government.

Bangalore Mirror had previously reported about the project targeting to have a waterway like Cheonggyecheon in South Korea in the city. Star Infratech (formerly known as Star Builders and Developers), a city-based construction firm, had bagged the project for Rs 179 crore.

They were reported to be experienced in the construction of roads, canals, bridges, and buildings. The contact also included the construction of a European-style pathway, arched bridges, and sewage treatment plants.

Cracks on yet another flyover

City flyovers are becoming a classic example of sub-standard work. The most recent example is the Manjunath Nagar flyover on Chord Road that connects Yeshwanthpur with Magadi Road. Although this flyover was inaugurated recently as part of the signal-free junction of Chord Road, cracks have already appeared. The work on this project was delayed, and now, the poor quality of work is exposing BBMP's claim of constructing quality flyovers.

Sunil Kumar, a local resident, reported, "The cracks are appearing to happen from inside, and we have already informed BBMP. Even the shoulder drains constructed at the entry of the flyover seem to be caving in. As residents, we are really scared to travel on this flyover."

Reports suggest that BBMP has referred the poor quality of the flyover to IISc for monitoring. When asked about the poor quality of the flyover and the IISc report, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath tried to play it down, saying that due process would be followed.

Last year, the Sumanahalli flyover was temporarily shut for traffic due to a gaping hole. The flyover was constructed by BDA across the Magadi Road-Outer Ring Road junction between 2004-2006. However, in November 2019, a gaping hole six feet long and four feet wide was spotted on the flyover. BBMP officials said that the metal frame of the flyover was intact, and they were only fixing the hole now. Although the flyover is open to traffic, the surface is very rough and filled with potholes, making it difficult for motorists to drive.

According to BBMP sources, 66 flyovers or grade separators have been constructed either by BBMP or BDA in Bengaluru. Some of these flyovers are as old as two or three decades, and experts have been demanding a safety audit for a long time. BBMP officials said that the audit would check various parameters, including the flyover's safety, strength, structure quality, and maintenance. An official added that they had outsourced a similar audit to a consultant in 2019-20, and the report submitted in September 2020 had mentioned that all the flyovers were safe.

Experts suggest that the agency should go for a non-destructive test (NDT) of the flyovers by testing dynamic and static loads. NDT should be known to assess the deflection, oscillation, vibrations, and other parameters. Many flyovers in the city, such as the KR Puram flyover or the BEL circle grade separator, are seeing the growth of small trees. Experts also suggest that BBMP should hold the concerned contractor responsible for poor construction.

"There should be a mechanism where the construction materials should be tested in a certified lab and checked thoroughly later to ensure all safety parameters are followed," said an expert. Meanwhile, the National Highways Authority of India constructed another 'faulty' flyover on the Nelamangala highway that will take many more months before heavy traffic is allowed. — BMB

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Parked trucks
Byatarayanapura

Trucks parked on sidewalks are forcing pedestrians to walk on the road near GKVK service road, Byatarayanapura.

Traffic trouble
Kalinga Rao Road

Footpath work on Kalinga Rao Road, Sampangi Rama Nagara, has been completed, but bricks are still lying around, causing jams.

Cleaning required
Whitefield

Regular cleaning of outlets is required in Varthur Kodi, Whitefield Main Road in front of Motherhood Hospital.

Sankey Road: Is silent walk really a crime?

Residents meet city police commissioner after FIR lodged against 70 residents for marching 'peacefully'

Bangalore Mirror Bureau
mybangaloremirror
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

A delegation of residents of Malleswaram and nearby areas met city police commissioner Pratap Reddy on Wednesday regarding an FIR filed against 70 residents at Sadashivanagar Police Station for participating in a peaceful march to save trees on Sankey Road.

In the meeting, which lasted for nearly 30 minutes, the delegation demanded that the baseless allegations against the citizen be withdrawn and the case be closed immediately.

"We requested that the baseless allegations should be revoked and an inquiry be initiated into the abuse of law in this case. Citizens have the right to a sustainable future. We owe it to our children to leave behind a healthy city. Actions such as silent walk harm no one, violate no laws, and work towards deepening our democracy," said a member of the delegation.

The 70 residents have been charged with crimes under sections 143, 341, 283, and 149 of the Indian Penal Code, 1860. These sections indicate that the charges relate to unlawful assembly, wrongful confinement, dangers or obstruction in public, etc.

Residents say that the FIR filed is arbitrary, unfair, and creates a chilling environment in a city known for the citizen's active participation. It is a violation of citizens' constitutional rights to freedom of speech and expression, peaceful assembly, and their right to life.

"During the meeting with the commissioner, we shared our concerns about the arbitrary and one-sided nature of the sudden FIR. We mentioned how permissions were sought, and all laws were followed by peaceful citizens on the day of the march. We also communicated that the police's message to citizens upon showing concern for the environment has created negative ripples and needs to be set right," said another member who was present at the meeting.

After listening to the grievances, the commissioner informed the citizens that the case had been transferred to Halasuru Police Station for an unbiased opinion.

"While the commissioner reiterated the High Court's position on the issue, he also shared that he has transferred the case to Halasuru to get an unbiased view. He seemed clear that this matter would be amicably settled, and requested our patience to go through this iteration," another member told Bangalore Mirror.

According to the delegation members, the meeting ended positively and cordially with an assurance that the police would give this matter their priority.

The citizens also presented a letter to the commissioner expressing that the FIR filed is akin to harassment to ordinary citizens as the peaceful march was done in support of the environment.

"Citizens coming together to walk silently without obstructing traffic is an act protected by our right to freedom of speech and expression," said the letter that was handed over to the police commissioner.

BangaloreMirror

File photo of the protest in February

'It is my right to protest peacefully'

Activist puzzled by police notice issued for protest organised in Feb at Sankey

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Sadashivanagar Police Station recently issued a notice to one of the Sankey Tank protestors and peaceful protest. I do not accept any of the charges laid out against me, as they have no merit."

On February 19, hundreds of residents from Malleswaram and nearby areas took part in a silent march to protest against the 600-metre-long proposed flyover in the area. Activists

BM's report on April 1 about police notice issued for protest

Drones to tally canines

BBMP plans to use drones for conducting much-awaited dog census, which is expected to begin in third week of April

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

According to BBMP, using drone technology to conduct dog surveys is one of the suggestions made by members of animal welfare groups in the city

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is contemplating using drones to aid the upcoming dog census in the city. According to the officials, the technology is being actively considered as it will help cover a larger area in a short period and will give a better understanding of the stray population.

"Using drone technology to conduct dog surveys is one of the suggestions made by members of animal welfare groups in the city and BBMP is actively considering the option. We are looking at its feasibility but it is yet to be finalised. We will take a final call on that soon and work out the modalities," said BBMP special commissioner (health) Dr KV Trilok Chandra.

The Palike is also considering designing a hybrid census process, keeping in mind the limitations of drone technology.

> **"We are looking at drone technology as it can cover a larger area and an aerial survey will also give us a better understanding of dog population demography. However, it has its challenge**
>
> – KV Trilok Chandra, BBMP

"We are looking at drone technology as it can cover a larger area and an aerial survey will also give us a better understanding of dog population demography. However, it has its challenges. For instance, we will not be able to capture data in places with dense tree canopies. We are currently looking at using this technology around the lakes, where there is a clear line of sight. Areas with dense canopy can be done on foot," informed Dr Chandra.

The much-awaited dog census of the city is expected to start in the third week of April. Moreover, BBMP is looking at conducting the census over a short period and with the help of students from the Veterinary College, Hebbal.

City-based animal welfare activists say the drone technology clubbed with on-foot census will not only help in better implementation of BBMP's ABC and ARV programme but will also provide more accurate data.

"Property surveys in the city are done using drone technology. Likewise, BBMP can invest in using drones while they do the dog census as it would help track a dog or a cluster of dogs to the exact geographic location making way for more accurate census data," said Nandita Subba Rao, Citizens for Animal Birth Control.

Notably, the technology has been used in the past for various government-led projects in the country such as land reforms, wildlife conservation, anti-poaching, etc.

According to the experts, BBMP contemplating using drones for stray dog management is a bold technology-led first-mover initiative and although the civic body has prior experience having done drone-based GIS mapping for collecting revenue and property tax, such a project would require the civic agency to work with an ecosystem of vendors, providers, consultants, legal experts, and policymakers to ensure there is a reasonable success.

"While BBMP has prior experience in drone-based GIS mapping for collecting revenue and property tax, they would need to create a task force within their organisation to manage this across departments," said Srinivas Yelandur, a public policy advisor.

K'taka police arrests cow vigilante from Rajasthan

The Karnataka police have arrested a group of cow vigilantes who had allegedly killed a man, suspecting him to be a cattle smuggler from Rajasthan, last week days after the incident happened in Ramanagara district.

Ramanagara Superintendent of Police Karthik Reddy on Wednesday said that the cow vigilante group comprising Punith Kerehalli and his four associates were arrested from Banswara in the northern state.

He said on the night of March 31, Kerehalli and his aides intercepted a vehicle coming from Mandya under Satanur police station limits. They accused the three persons travelling in the vehicle of trafficking cattle to an abattoir in the neighbouring state of Goa.

The vigilantes allegedly assaulted and abused the trio, despite their efforts to reason out by stating that they had the receipt of the purchase. The accused allegedly even demanded Rs 2 lakh from them. According to sources, Idrees Pasha, who reportedly resisted the vigilantes, was chased and beaten up by them.

The SP said the following morning on April 1, Pasha's body was found in Satanur. He added that the victim's brother had accused Kerehalli of killing his brother.

Police took up the case on a priority basis and four teams were formed to catch hold of the persons. The accused were finally caught in Rajasthan, where they had escaped to while passing through Hubballi in Karnataka, Maharashtra and Gujarat, police said.

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No demolitions until elections

Until recently, BBMP had been actively clearing encroachments in Bengaluru

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharVMIRROR

While the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) had initially started clearing encroachments, they gradually slowed down work on the same. Demolition work has been paused until May 10 due to the upcoming assembly elections. BBMP claims that if it demolishes any house, it will change the residence of the voter. BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath confirmed that till the elections, there will be no demolition of houses or shops. There are also court cases pending for some of the places where houses have come up on rajakaluves, and until they get directions from the court, they will not take up the work.

POLL VAULT

File photo of BBMP workers removing encroachments on 80 feet main road, Banasawadi Lake area

200 points identified as highly flood-prone

BBMP has identified 200 plus points as sensitive areas prone to flooding. Nath said that these points have been identified by KSNDMC after conducting thorough research. They have developed a model that estimates the damage caused by rainfall. At present, 70 per cent of these sensitive points have been tackled by either permanent or temporary measures. These points will be put up on the website for the public to see.

Reasons for delay

According to Nath, the work got delayed due to heavy rains last year, which continued until December. In some places, mud is still on the road, and BWSSB is also doing its job. Agencies have been given time until the end of April to clear rajakaluves. Kadubeesanahalli faced waterlogging due to mud and punctured drains. BMRCL work and road work by BWSSB have also caused waterlogging in some areas. Nath conducted a meeting with all the chief engineers, JCs, and zonal commissioners to ensure cleaning of drains on a timely basis. The cleaning of drains measuring over 450 km, rajakaluves, and secondary drains will be done by the end of April to prepare for the monsoon season. Work has been taken up in unlined areas at a cost of Rs 2,000 crore. Contractors are clearing the line, and 170 km need to be cleaned at one go in tertiary drains in the wards. Cleaning of ward roads where primary and secondary canals meet is also being taken up under annual maintenance. Engineers will be deputed for 24 hours in the control rooms, and no outsourced work will be taken up as enough resources are available this time.

According to the BBMP, if they demolish any houses now, it will change the residence of the voter; there are also court cases pending

Some of the engineers are working on these projects, and no new projects will be announced due to the model code of conduct. After May, BBMP, BESCOM, and BWSSB will jointly prepare for monsoon work. Permission has been granted to agencies to dig up the road before taking up road-laying work. Water and power connections cannot be stopped, so permission will be provided to dig up the road, but they need to fix the road after their work is done.

Actor backs 'Bommai mama', gets threats

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Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai got 'support' from star actor Sudeep Sanjeev on Wednesday as the latter promised to campaign for the CM due to close association. However, 'Kichha', as Sudeep is popularly known, clarified that he is neither entering politics nor contesting in the May 10 assembly election.

For the last few months, there has been speculation that Sudeep may join a political party. A few weeks ago, Sudeep had met KPCC president DK Shivakumar and then there were rumours that Sudeep may join Congress. However, for the last two days, there was speculation that Sudeep may join the saffron party. Clarifying his stand on Wednesday, Sudeep said, "I have come here to announce my support to Basavaraj Bommai, whom I adore and call him 'mama' with affection and respect. Bommai mama has stood by me during my difficult times. However, I am alone and cannot campaign at all places."

Reacting to this, Bommai said since Sudeep has announced that he would stand by him and extend his support, it means he will campaign for BJP as well. "Sudeep doesn't belong to any party. He has come to support me and the party I belong to".

Meanwhile, shifting party loyalties continued in Karnataka ahead of the elections. Former Lok Sabha member from Mandya, LR Shivarame Gowda, on Wednesday, joined the ruling BJP in poll-bound Karnataka. Gowda, who was expelled by the Janata Dal (Secular) last year, was welcomed into the party fold. Earlier, Arasikere MLA Shivalinge Gowda and Gubbi MLA SR Srinivas had announced quitting JDS and joining Congress.

Cops to probe threatening letters to Sudeep

Police said that the actor had received two threatening letters. His manager Jack Manju got the letters. The miscreants allegedly used foul language and threatened to share 'private videos' of him on social media. Puttenahalli police have registered a case under IPC Sections 506 and 504 and launched an investigation to nab the culprits. The police are also thinking of handing over the case to higher investigation authorities. DCP (South) P Krishnakant said, "The letters have been written anonymously."

Meanwhile, Sudeep, on Wednesday, claimed that the letters issued to him were the handiwork of some people in the Kannada film industry. He said, "This is definitely done by persons in the film industry. I know how to answer this development. These matters must be pursued legally. Although I know who is behind it, I chose to be quiet. The conspiracy will come out soon. I will not leave it just like that. I have taken certain decisions and I will stand by them," he said.

IN BRIEF

Freebies worth Rs 12 crore seized

Enforcement agencies made seizures totalling nearly Rs 70 crore in poll-bound Karnataka since the model code of conduct (MCC) came into force on March 29, the Election Commission said on Wednesday.

The seizures include cash (Rs 22.75 crore), liquor (Rs 24.45 crore) and freebies (Rs 12 crore), the office of the Chief Electoral Officer, Karnataka, said in a press release.

As many as 526 FIRs have been booked with regard to the seizures.

".....the worth of total seizure which includes cash, material, liquor, and drugs total to Rs 69,36,17,467", it said. It was noted that the seizures before the announcement of the May 10 Assembly polls totalled to about Rs 58 crore (March 9 to March 27 period). PTI

'Rs 1,300 cr scam': AAP slams BJP

The Karnataka unit of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) on Wednesday lodged a complaint with the Lokayukta alleging a 'Rs 1,300 crore scam' against former IAS officer and BJP ticket aspirant for Koratagere Assembly seat, Anil Kumar.

Dr Vishwanth, AAP working president, told the media, "When Anil Kumar was at the helm in Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) in 2019-20, he was allegedly involved in scams worth Rs 1,300 crore." "In 2019-20, Kumar was the commissioner of BBMP. It is almost certain that he will be the BJP candidate in Koratagere Assembly constituency. There were three major irregularities during his tenure as BBMP Commissioner," said state communication in-charge Brijesh Kalappa.

"Rs 31.6 crore for smart parking was sanctioned. Although it does not cost that much money, an additional Rs two crore was released. Kumar released it to the contractor company by name Buildings Control Solution India Pvt Ltd," he alleged. IANS

PM to visit Karnataka

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit poll-bound Karnataka and Telangana as well as Tamil Nadu on April 8 and 9.

While assembly elections are to be held in Karnataka on May 10, Telangana will go to polls later this year.

He will be in Telangana and Tamil Nadu on April 8 while he will visit Karnataka on April 9.

During the Karnataka leg of his tour, Modi will visit Bandipur Tiger Reserve and also visit Theppakadu Elephant Camp in Mudumalai Tiger Reserve.

He will inaugurate the programme 'Commemoration of 50 years of Project Tiger' and also launch the International Big Cats Alliance. IANS

HEALTH TIP: Peaches are full of iron and magnesium. Iron forms haemoglobin in red blood cells which transport oxygen around the body

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Food in our DNA

What you eat can reprogram your genes – Expert decodes nutrigenomics

People typically think of food as calories, energy and sustenance. However, the latest evidence suggests that food also "talks" to our genome, which is the genetic blueprint that directs the way the body functions down to the cellular level.

This communication between food and genes may affect your health, physiology and longevity. The idea that food delivers important messages to an animal's genome is the focus of a field known as nutrigenomics. This is a discipline still in its infancy, and many questions remain cloaked in mystery. Yet already, we researchers have learned a great deal about how food components affect the genome.

I am a molecular biologist who researches the interactions among food, genes and brains in the effort to better understand how food messages affect our biology. The efforts of scientists to decipher this transmission of information could one day result in healthier and happier lives for all of us. But until then, nutrigenomics has unmasked at least one important fact: Our relationship with food is far more intimate than we ever imagined.

The interaction of food and genes

If the idea that food can drive biological processes by interacting with the genome sounds astonishing, one need look no further than a beehive to find a proven and perfect example of how this happens. Worker bees labor nonstop, are sterile and live only a few weeks. The queen bee, sitting deep inside the hive, has a life span that lasts for years and a fecundity so potent she gives birth to an entire colony.

And yet, worker and queen bees are genetically identical organisms. They become two different life forms because of the food they eat. The queen bee feasts on royal jelly; worker bees feed on nectar and pollen. Both foods provide energy, but royal jelly has an extra feature: its nutrients can unlock the genetic instructions to create the anatomy and physiology of a queen bee.

So how is food translated into biological instructions? Remember that food is composed of macronutrients. These include carbohydrates – or sugars – proteins and fat. Food also contains micronutrients such as vitamins and minerals. These compounds and their breakdown products can trigger genetic switches that reside in the genome.

Like the switches that control the intensity of the light in your house, genetic switches determine how much of a certain gene product is produced. Royal jelly, for instance, contains compounds that activate genetic controllers to form the queen's organs and sustain her reproductive ability. In humans and mice, byproducts of the amino acid methionine, which are abundant in meat and fish, are known to influence genetic dials that are important for cell growth and division. And vitamin C plays a role in keeping us healthy by protecting the genome from oxidative damage; it also promotes the function of cellular pathways that can repair the genome if it does get damaged.

Depending on the type of nutritional information, the genetic controls activated and the cell that receives them, the messages in food can influence wellness, disease risk and even life span. But it's important to note that to date, most of these studies have been conducted in animal models, like bees.

Interestingly, the ability of nutrients to alter the flow of genetic information can span across generations. Studies show that in humans and animals, the diet of grandparents influences the activity of genetic switches and the disease risk and mortality of grandchildren.

Cause and effect

One interesting aspect of thinking of food as a type of biological information is that it gives new meaning to the idea of a food chain. Indeed, if our bodies are influenced by what we have eaten – down to a molecular level – then what the food we consume "ate" also could affect our genome. For example, compared to milk from grass-fed cows, the milk from grain-fed cattle has different amounts and types of fatty acids and vitamins C and A . So when humans drink these different types of milk, their cells also receive different nutritional messages.

Similarly, a human mother's diet changes the levels of fatty acids as well as vitamins such as B-6, B-12 and folate that are found in her breast milk. This could alter the type of nutritional messages reaching the baby's own genetic switches, although whether or not this has an effect on the child's development is, at the moment, unknown.

And, maybe unbeknownst to us, we too are part of this food chain. The food we eat doesn't tinker with just the genetic switches in our cells, but also with those of the microorganisms living in our guts, skin and mucosa. One striking example: In mice, the breakdown of short-chain fatty acids by gut bacteria alters the levels of serotonin, a brain chemical messenger that regulates mood, anxiety and depression, among other processes.

Food additives and packaging

Added ingredients in food can also alter the flow of genetic information inside cells. Breads and cereals are enriched with folate to prevent birth defects caused by deficiencies of this nutrient. But some scientists hypothesise that high levels of folate in the absence of other naturally occurring micronutrients such as vitamin B-12 could contribute to the higher incidence of colon cancer in Western countries, possibly by affecting the genetic pathways that control growth.

This could also be true with chemicals found in food packaging. Bisphenol A, or BPA, a compound found in plastic, turns on genetic dials in mammals that are critical to development, growth and fertility. For example, some researchers suspect that, in both humans and animal models, BPA influences the age of sexual differentiation and decreases fertility by making genetic switches more likely to turn on.

All of these examples point to the possibility that the genetic information in food could arise not just from its molecular composition – the amino acids, vitamins and the like – but also from the agricultural, environmental and economic policies of a country, or the lack of them.

Scientists have only recently begun decoding these genetic food messages and their role in health and disease. We researchers still don't know precisely how nutrients act on genetic switches, what their rules of communication are and how the diets of past generations influence their progeny. Many of these studies have so far been done only in animal models, and much remains to be worked out about what the interactions between food and genes mean for humans.

What is clear though, is that unraveling the mysteries of nutrigenomics is likely to empower both present and future societies and generations.

Monica Dus, University of Michigan, The Conversation

All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My friend and neighbour recently went through a horrible divorce and wasn't around much for her teenage daughter, who is friends with my daughter. I basically picked up the slack and drove her girl to school and back every day, fed her most evenings, watched her games, gave her advice, and let her cry on my shoulder.
I did it because I wanted to do it and because my daughter thinks the world of this girl, but her mum has barely registered it. Then last week, she came over out of the blue and we got into an argument over her daughter spending so much time at mine, and she stormed off. I was very upset and so was my daughter and, more importantly, her daughter was devastated and screamed at her mum about never being around. I don't know what to do now because our girls are such good friends. What would you suggest?

COLEEN SAYS

I would suggest being the bigger person here and taking the high road. You're right, but what you've made your friend see is that she's been absent as a mum and she doesn't like it. You have to remember that she's going through a lot and she's obviously struggling to keep all the balls in the air.
The way to approach it is to say you want everyone to stay friends, particularly your girls, and say sorry if she feels you've overstepped the mark. Add that you're not trying to replace her or take over, but you and your daughter love having her girl over and that you're always happy to help out. Yes, it might stick in your throat because you've been doing a good thing and got shouted at for it, but I just don't think it's worth adding fuel to the fire. Accept that she's going through a stressful time and that's why she's reacted the way she has.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

The digital divide

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

we have to upload all the details of the children and pregnant women visiting anganwadi centres on a daily basis. We are facing network problems; the smartphones given to us are outdated now. We are told to use the same smartphone for e-Survey and election-related data uploads," said Girija YD, an anganwadi teacher.

The teachers have to depend on smartphones to upload health check-up details of children at anganwadis. The details include height, weight, growth and immunisation status of the child.

"Though the e-Survey work allotted to anganwadi teachers has been stopped till the elections are held, the authorities may direct us to restart the e-Survey work after the elections are over. It is difficult to upload more information, including election-related data, on these smartphones. We are planning to return the smartphones to the government," said Ratha Shiroor, anganwadi teacher.

The state government, with financial assistance from the central government, spent Rs 65 crore for procuring the smartphones and SIM cards a few years ago.

Meanwhile, Karnataka Rajya Anganwadi Karyakartheyaru Matthu Sahayakiyara Federation, affiliated to All India Trade Union Congress, wrote a letter to the director, Women and Child Development department, stating that the anganwadi teachers have decided to return the smartphones to the state government as they could not use those smartphones due to problems such as low storage space, network issues, sub-standard battery and lack of updated versions of software.

"The authorities have been directing the anganwadi teachers to take up additional duties apart from maintaining the anganwadi centres.

They are facing a lot of problems uploading data pertaining to e-Survey and state assembly elections. How long can these anganwadi teachers repair the smartphones given to them? Is it not the authorities' duty and responsibility to replace the old smartphones with new ones?" asked Karnataka Rajya Anganwadi Karyakartheyaru Matthu Sahayakiyara Federation secretary M Jayamma.

One of the phones given to Anganwadi teachers

However, Women and Child Development department director Dr Anuradha KN said she was aware of some smartphones not working. "Measures will be taken to repair defunct smartphones. There is no shortage of funds to engage service providers to repair the smartphones," Dr Anuradha said.

LCA Tejas milestone

In a major milestone in the LCA Tejas programme, the first ever series production standard LCA Trainer (LT 5201), manufactured by HAL, took to the skies for its maiden flight on Wednesday from its airport here, the Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL) announced. HAL said that the LCA Trainer landed after completing a successful sortie of around 35 minutes.

"Our thanks to the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADC), the Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA), and the Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) and others involved in this success."

The video of the sortie shared on social media has gone viral and HAL is showered with praises. **IANS**

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, Ashritha Koka Prasanna W/o. Veerabadra Rao Inala Venkata Anjanaya Residing at Flat No. 304, Plot 154, sai Sapphire Apt, 16th Cross, JP Nagar 7th Phase, Bengaluru 560078 have change my name to ASHRITHA INALA vide affidavit dated 05.04.2023 sworn before notary: K.S.Nataraja. Bengaluru

I, Mangesh Mukund Pande, S/o Mukund Narayan Pande, R/o A-206, Mahaveer Tuscan, Hoodi Bengaluru 560048 have changed my name to MANGESH MUKUNDRAO PANDE, affidavit Dt.05/04/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M V, B'luru

I, Nikila Suresh w/o N.Suresh R/o #212, 4th cross, 18th main, 6th block, Koramangala, Bengaluru 560095 have changed my name to Nikila Suresh Krishnappa (K.Nikila Suresh) affidavit Dt.05/04/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, N Saravanan R/o 11/4,1st Main Road, Ramachandrapuram, bangalore 21 have changed my minor son's name from S Sanjeev to S Sanjeev Reddy for all purposes.

I Arhunuo Khro D/O, Doutsii R/o Dhansriripar Sub.div, Razhaphe Dimapur,nagaland-797112 have changed my name to Rita Khro for all purposes.

I, MEGHALA RAJAKANNAN residing at 402, S R Residency, 2nd Main, Chamundeswari Layout, 6th Cross, Vidyaranya pura, Bangalore-560097 have changed my name to MEGALA RAJAKANNAN vide affidavit dated 20.03.2023 sworn before notary V.Anjanappa, B.lore.

I, KUSUMA GOVINDAPPA residing at #01, 1st Main, 7th Cross, Sampangiram Nagar, Bengaluru-560027 have changed my name to GOVINDASWAMY KUSUM KUMARI vide affidavit dated 31.03.2023 sworn before notary V.Anjanappa, B.lore.

I, TULASIRAM REDDY ERRI, R/at, No 12, 3rd Cross, Maruthi Layout, Dasarahalli Main Road, Hebbal, Kempapura, Bengaluru-560024, have changed my name to THULASIRAM REDDY ERRI, vide affidavit dated: 05.04.2023, before Notary, B.S. Padma Prasad, Bengaluru.

I, Srisundar Velaiyutham Senthiappan R/o #4, 4th cross, Versova layout, C V Raman Nagar, Bengaluru 560093 have changed my name to Srisundar Senthiappan (Srisundar S) affidavit Dt.05/04/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Srisundar.S R/o #4, 4th cross, Versova layout, C V Raman Nagar, Bengaluru 560093 have changed my minor son name from Nalan to Nalan Srisundar (NALAN.S) affidavit Dt.05/04/2023 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Usha W/o Gurumurthy R/o 25/B 2nd Cross , Krishnappa Garden , S G Palya ,B'luru-560 029 have changed my name to K T Renukamma vide affidavit No-IN-KA31990555010709V before Notary L Gopalakrishna

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I K.B.GANGAIAH, S/o Byrappa, Residing at no 43, Doctor's Enclave TCP Layout, opp Old Chandapura, Chandapura, Bangaluru-560099, have lost BDA Original Khata Certificate No.BDA/RO/N/22/2015/16 Dated : 12-05-2015, If Anyboby Finds the above Mentioned Khata Certificate Pls Coll me moh: 9980459987

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Misuse of agencies: SC refuses to entertain plea

'Laying down guidelines without facts of criminal case will be dangerous proposition'

File photo of ED employees carrying out seized cash from the flat of aid of Bengal's former education minister Partha Chatterjee

The Observing that politicians do not have "higher immunity", the Supreme Court Wednesday refused to entertain a plea by 14 political parties led by the Congress alleging arbitrary use of central probe agencies against opposition leaders, asserting that laying down guidelines without facts of a criminal case will be a "very dangerous" proposition.

A bench of Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud and Justice J B Pardiwala expressed disinclination to entertain the petition, saying courts are always there for taking up the grievances of political leaders as they do for common citizens.

"I think that in the absence of the specific fact, for us to lay down the general principle of law is again a very dangerous proposition. Once we have the facts in a case or group of cases then we can lay down law not just for that case but as a general principle," said the CJI while refusing to entertain the plea.

"The difficulty in your petition is that you are trying to extrapolate the statistics into binding legal guidelines which effectively would apply. You are aware of the fact these statistics pertain only to politicians. At the same time you are aware of the fact that the guidelines cannot apply only to the politicians. Politicians do not have higher immunity," the bench said.

Sensing its disinclination, senior advocate AM Sighvi, appearing for the political parties, sought permission to withdraw the petition which was granted. "Learned counsel seeks permission to withdraw the plea at this stage. The petition is accordingly dismissed as withdrawn," the bench ordered. The bench said it is always willing to take up "a single case or a group

Top court says remedy to allegation that the space for political opponents has shrunk lies in the "political space" itself and not in courts

of cases" where a political leader has been targeted to silence the voice. "Come to us with one or more cases together we will certainly deal with this," the bench said.

It said the remedy to the allegation that the space for political opponents has shrunk lies in the "political space" itself and not in courts. The top court was not in agreement with the submission that in cases which do not relate to bodily injuries and provide for a sentence of not more than seven years pre and post-arrest guidelines needed to be framed.

For arrest and remand, the political parties have been seeking adherence to the triple test which deals with the "determination as to whether a person is a flight risk, whether there is a reasonable apprehension of the tampering of evidence, or the influencing/intimidation of witnesses". At the outset, Singhvi referred to certain statistics while trying to drive home the point that opposition leaders have been targeted by federal investigative agencies from 2014 to 2022 and that there has been a 600 per cent increase in CBI and ED cases. "Between 2014 and 2022, 121 political leaders have been probed by the Enforcement Directorate out of whom 95 per cent are from opposition parties," he claimed.

The Narendra Modi government first came to power in May 2014. The CBI has probed 124 political leaders and out of these, 108 are from opposition political parties, Singhvi claimed. The bench observed, by and large, the conviction rate in India is "abysmally low" and asked whether it can say there should not be any probe keeping in mind the statistics.

"..this is the petition filed by 14 political parties. Now you give us some statistics and can we therefore say that because of these statistics there should be no investigation and there should be immunity from the investigation," the bench observed. Besides the Congress, the parties to the petition included the DMK, RJD, BRS, Trinamool Congress, AAP, NCP, Shiv Sena (UBT), JMM, JD(U), CPI(M), CPI, Samajwadi Party and the J&K National Conference, the statement said. – PTI

Rise in covid: SC may go back to hybrid mode

Chief Justice of India (CJI) DY Chandrachud on Wednesday, while considering the rapid increase in the number of Covid-19 cases in the country, said the apex court is willing to hear lawyers through video conferencing.

A bench headed by Chief Justice Chandrachud and comprising Justice JB Pardiwala, citing the recent media reports, said the court is willing to allow advocates to appear before the court through the hybrid mode. The Chief Justice said, "We can hear you through video conferencing mode also".

India on Wednesday reported 4,435 new Covid-19 cases, the highest single-day jump since September 2022, according to the Union ministry of Health and Family Affairs.

The number of active cases stands at 23,091, the data showed. With the surge in the past 24 hours, the tally has climbed to 4,47,33,719. Also, 15 deaths reported during the same time span has pushed the toll to 5,30,916.

As per the ministry data, the national Covid recovery rate was pegged at 98.76 per cent. While one death each was reported from Delhi, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Haryana, Karnataka, Puducherry and Rajasthan, four each were reconciled by Maharashtra and Kerala. – IANS

242 cases, 2 deaths in Karnataka

On Wednesday, Karnataka reported 242 Covid-19 cases of which 110 were from Bengaluru alone. Though the current covid-19 cases are said to be mild, the state reported two covid-19 deaths, from Dharwad and Gadag. In Dharwad district, a eight-month-old baby girl passed away. The child was suffering from fever, cough and breathlessness and had an underlying condition of ischemic heart disease (IHD). The child was admitted on March 29 and passed away on April 4. The other death reported was of a 69-year-old female with SARI who had comorbidities like hyper tension, diabetes mellitus

60-70% work done at Rampura Lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

A set of residents had complained earlier about the constant dumping of mud and trash on the lake premises. The BBMP however stated that as of now there is no dumping in the surroundings and that100% efforts are on for the lake's development.

Entry of sewage into the lake was one of the main problems that was resulting in the depletion of the water quality at the lake — this had also resulted in bad odour. Years ago the residents had carried out a cleanliness drive at the lake to save it from the brink.

"We are creating sewage diversion channels so that the sewage does not enter the waterbody. Even a sewage treatment plant will be constructed for the treatment of the water. Efforts are on to restrict inflow of untreated water into the lake," the BBMP official added.

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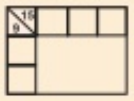
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

The average age of 4 kids is 10 years. The average age of three of them is 8 ½ years. How old is the fourth kid?

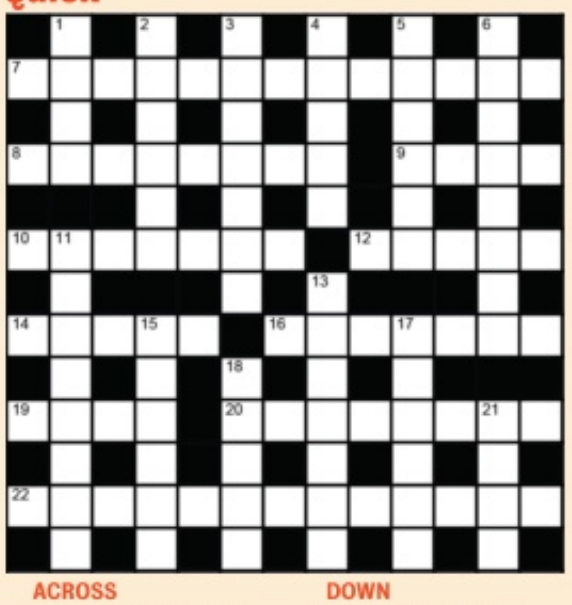
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.

Quick



ACROSS

7 State in central India (6,7)
8 Think of again (8)
9 Spool (4)
10 Tourniquet (7)
12 Let in (5)
14 Present to or make a bid (5)
16 Deceive or mislead (7)
19 Make a sweater (4)
20 Absolute (8)
22 Extremely high (informal) (13)

DOWN

1 An auction, perhaps (4)
2 Canny (6)
3 Bangalore's famed botanical gardens (7)
4 Ten million, especially in India (5)
5 Worshipped, loved (6)
6 Exceptional (8)
11 Liking or attraction (8)
13 Nazi secret police (7)
15 Beguile or ensnare (6)
17 Undivided (6)
18 Revolving aerofoil (5)
21 Successor (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: O EQUALS U

HQ TNO RHDD LMSU SWSHZ RASI HG RLHIIMZ, TNO RHDD GMM ANR HI RSG.

Linemaro

I'd rather be in hell with you, than in heaven without you

Mindchow

Wise people know little; only fools know everything

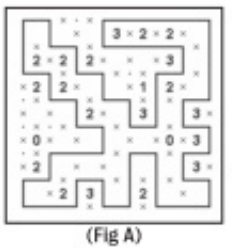
Joke of the day

Dying grandma: I am leaving my million-dollar farm to you. Thrilled grandchild: But granny, I never knew you had a farm. Where is it? Grandma (whispers): Facebook ...

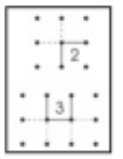
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

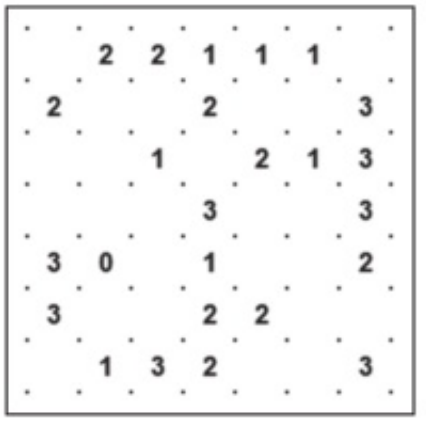


(Fig B) Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

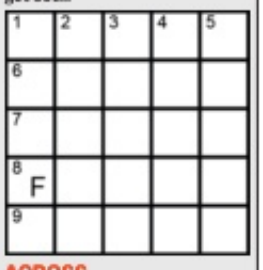


Strikeout

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

1 Scrap; 6 Peril; 7 Bam II; 8 Reefs; 9 Re Fog

DOWN

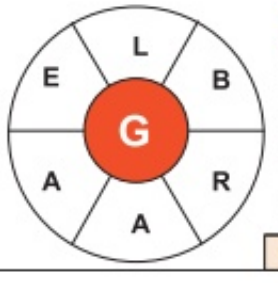
1 If FPS; 2 Carol; 3 Marie; 4 Grebe; 5 Spire

Mensapuzzle

Identify a number in the grid that meets the two following simple rules: a. It is not in any line across that contains a square. b. It is not in any line down that contains a prime number.

23	36	8	48
7	6	13	16
15	21	3	5
18	25	4	12

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

16 Average; 18 Good; 20 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

8								3
			8		5			
9		1	2		3	7		4
1	6						3	8
		9				5		
7	4						2	6
3		2	4		9	6		7
			1		8			
5								2

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 3
5 7 7 8

Medium = 10
2 3 7 8

Hard = 13
6 8 8 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Dollar sign is larger. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Teller's glasses are missing. 4. Hair is different. 5. Woman's coat collar is smaller. 6. Fingers are not showing.

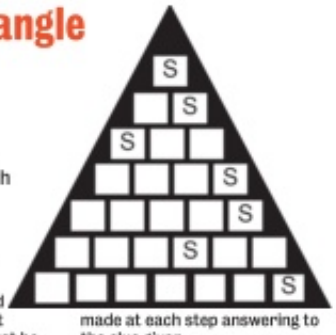
Riddler

In this teaser, I have given you a 9-letter word. Your job is to break up this word into 9 separate letters and place them on the dashes to spell a 7-letter word, a 5-letter word, and a 3-letter word. You can use each letter only once.

CULTIVATE
1. _ A _ I _ N _
2. _ O _ N _
3. _ C _

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 You and me
3 Bring to court
4 Has regrets
5 Picture puzzle
6 Vituperative one
7 Renounces on oath



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

YOU'RE POPULAR! CHARLOTTE DROPPED OFF A GIFT, TOO!
I SENT YOU TOOLS THAT ARE SCIENTIFICALLY PROVEN TO BE THE BEST REMEDY FOR PNEUMONIA. IT'S BEEN PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION!
OOH! I'LL OPEN IT NOW!
OH, YEAH, THESE ARE SOME HEAVY-HITTING MEDS!

Crankshaft

Mutts

THE RUG REALLY TIES THE ROOM TOGETHER
YEAH, WELL, THAT'S JUST, LIKE, YOUR OPINION, MAN.
THE CAT ON THE RUG REALLY TIES THE ROOM TOGETHER.

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may be very happy. Your losses may convert into profits, and your seniors may appreciate your work. You may likely have some changes in your place, position, or responsibilities at work in terms of promotions. Your opponents and hidden enemies may be under control now. Singles and love birds may take important decisions in terms of marriage with the help of relatives or friends.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may make you happy. Last week's crunch is now over. With the help of blessings, you may get reciprocation for your hard work. With the help of your subordinates, you may be able to initiate your postponed works. There are some gains in your business that may boost your finance.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you may feel dull. You may have some health issues. You are advised to postpone making investments in the business. It is also advised not to start a new venture. You are likely to face losses in the business, and your gains may likely convert into losses.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you may be able to make quick decisions on the professional front. You may expect to get new opportunities in terms of business, which may boost your confidence level. You are likely to start some new innovation with the help of your partner, which may increase your business in the near future.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you may perform well at work. You may expect some promotions or transfer in terms of gains, and you may also plan to change the current job. Your relations with the boss may be boosted now, and chronic health issues will be resolved, making your family happy.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you are blessed by the moon, which may give you confidence. You may be able to take important decisions confidently. You are decisive also, so may grab the opportunity without a second thought. You may likely spend money on family and friends. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments. Job aspirants may likely get a suitable job with the help of friends.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, you may have a dull feeling, and you may not enjoy your day. You may be a victim of arrogance, which may affect both your professional and domestic life. You may internally feel a lack of confidence, which may stop you from doing something creative at work.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you are advised to control your straightforwardness. Your loose talking may affect people around you, and you may spend your hard-earned money buying some worthless stuff. Your mind may work very fast, so it is advised to make any important decision with patience.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you may take quick decisions, which may give benefits in day-to-day life. You may take some difficult decisions with the help of your colleagues and may likely get success easily. Property-related disputes between siblings may likely be resolved, and you may also expect some short trips.

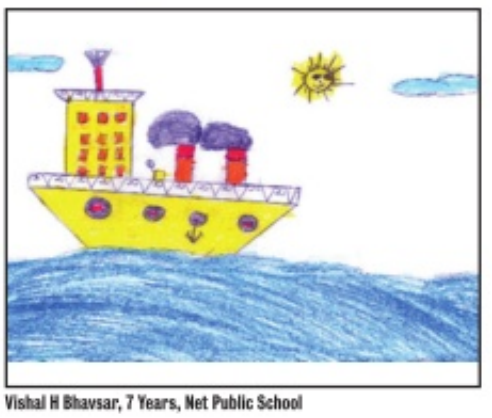
Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are advised to keep your impulses in check. Your way of treating others may impact your work life. Try not to overspend, as it will lead to financial issues. You may donate some money to charity or help needy people.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you may not feel better, and old health issues may arise, making you upset. You may take some wrong decisions due to impatience and hurry. It is advised to think twice before making any decision. It is also advised that you should not keep money loose, otherwise, you may spend it on buying worthless stuff.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, there may be peace in the mind. You may plan to invest some capital in the business, which may increase liquidity into your business. Your earnings may boost your financial health. You may enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which may enhance harmony in the family life. Singles may likely to find a suitable match. Love birds may take the decision to get married. Students will be blessed by good karma.

KIDZONE

Ankitha. S, 8 Years, Stella Maris School



Vishal H Bhavsar, 7 Years, Net Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
Total age of 4 kids = 4*10 = 40
Total age of 3 kids = 3*8.5 = 25.5
Age of Fourth kid=14.5

RIDDLER
1. Valiant,
2. Count,
3. Ice

QUOTE UNCODE
If you will read again what is written, you will see how it was.

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	R	P
P	L	I	E	R
I	A	M	B	I
F	R	E	E	S
F	O	R	G	E

STRIKE OUT

K	I	T	S		T	A	T		E	T	U	I		
E	R		E		H		R	E	I	E		A	S	
P	A	U	N	C	H		A	G	E	N	D	A		
T		E		R		I		E		A		S		
T	A	L	A	Y	S		A	N	D	H	R	A		
D	H		L	O	I	T	O		T		T			
E	S	S	E	N	E		A	G	R	E	E	S		
H		A	L	I		M		N	E	T		Y		
N		S	A	T		P		T	N	T		R		
T		G	A	G	A	R	I	N				R		
I	N	H	E	R	E		S	T	I	N	G	O		
P	A	U	N	C	H		A	G	E	N	D	A		
E	R		E		H		R	E	I	E		A	S	
K	I	T	S		T	A	T		E	T	U	I		

QUICK

S		S		L		C		A		E				
		W		A		E		C						
R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R		R	E	E	L		
L		R		L		O		O		P				
M	A	D	H	Y	A	P	R	A	O	E	S	H		
S	T	R	A	Y	O	S	P	H	E	R	I	C		
I		R		T		A		T		E				
K	N	I	T		O	U	T	R	I	G	H	T		
I		N		R		S		N						
O	F	F	E	R		B	E	G	U	I	L	E		
F				H		O						A		
B	A	N	D	A	G	E		A	D	M	I	T		
R	E	M	E	M	B	E	R		R	E	E	L		
L		R		L		O		O		P				
M	A	D	H	Y	A	P	R	A	O	E	S	H		
S	T	R	A	Y	O	S	P	H	E	R	I	C		
Y		P		R		O		D		R				

SUDOKU

8	2	6	9	4	7	1	5	3
4	7	3	8	1	5	2	6	9
9	5	1	2	6	3	7	8	4
1	6	5	7	9	2	4	3	8
3	8	2	4	5	9	6	1	7
7	4	8	5	3	1	9	2	6
2	3	9	6	8	4	5	7	1
6	9	7	1	2	8	3	4	5
5	1	4	3	7	6	8	9	2

MENSA PUZZLE
21

BULL'S EYE
agar, alga, algae, ALGEBRA, bagel, barge, berg, brag, crab, lager, lgar, rage, regal

ALPHA TRIANGLE
S, Us, Sue, Rebus, Rues, Abuser, Abluser.

LOOP

GO FIGURE
Easy
7 – 5 + 8 – 7 = 3
Medium
7 + 8 – 3 – 2 = 10
Hard
7 – 8 + 8 + 6 = 13

KAKURO

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SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

One-man show

Vijay Raghavendra is known as a gregarious actor in Sandalwood. He is also known for the variety of roles he plays. In his most recent film, he played a farmer and now arrangements are on for his next movie Raaghu.

"The specialty of Raaghu is that it has only one actor -- Vijaya Raghavendra. This is a new kind of thriller based on revenge theme. It was a challenge for me and I assure the audiences that they will not go home disappointed after watching this movie. It was shot on the city's outskirts and huge sets were put up for the shooting. The producer did not compromise with the quality," said Anand Raj.

Anand Raj debuts as a full-fledged director with this film. Prior to this, he worked as an associate for Kannada movies Aana, Bang, and Mary. "The movie has melodious songs and thrilling action scenes. It has two music directors. While Suraj Jois scored music for songs, Rithvik Muralidhar composed background music," he said.

He said that one of the songs – Kaalachakradalli – sung by Vasuki Vaibhav became a huge hit. "This lyrical video was launched recently and it got more than three lakh views within three days. I think a video receiving such a positive response is the first of its kind in Sandalwood," he said.

Zoophobia

Chandana M Rao is known for her performance in the tele serial Akasha Deepa. Now, she plays the lead in the tele serial Raani that is being aired from April 3 on Star Suvarna from Monday to Saturday.

"Initially, I struggled to adapt myself with sheep because I have been suffering from zoophobia since childhood. I had to act with a sheep and my character in the serial is from a rural background. Acting as a village belle was also challenging as I was born and brought up in Bengaluru. It took me a few days to understand the village atmosphere. The team supported me," says Vandana.

The serial is such that even the hearing and speech impaired can understand the dialogues. The story is about a girl who loses her mother and brother in suspicious circumstances. She is fond of sheep and she can speak but can't hear. She wants to avenge the deaths of her mother and brother.

Praveen Arya plays the lead while Swathi plays his mother and Manasa plays an important role. Script writer and producer Ramji said Raani is his favourite. "I got inspired by a few Kannada movies to write the script. We made arrangements to have sign language too while telecasting this serial," said Ramji.

Jacqueline appears in court

The Enforcement Directorate has informed a Delhi court that it may file on Thursday a supplementary charge sheet in an alleged Rs 200 crore extortion-related money-laundering case involving Sukesh Chandrashekhar, Bollywood actor Jacqueline Fernandez and others.

The agency made the submission before Additional Sessions Judge Shailendra Malik during a brief proceeding in the case on Wednesday.

Fernandez, who is currently on bail in the case, also appeared before the court during the proceedings.

The court, which is hearing the arguments on the framing of the charges against the accused persons, has now listed the matter for further hearing on April 18. It had on November 15 granted bail to Fernandez, who is an accused in the money laundering case. She was not arrested in the case.

The court had on August 31 taken cognisance of a supplementary charge sheet filed by the Enforcement Directorate and asked Fernandez to appear before it.

Fernandez, who was summoned by the ED several times in connection with the investigation, was named as an accused in the supplementary charge sheet.

PTI

Vaani gets cracking

Bollywood actress Vaani Kapoor, took to her Instagram on Wednesday to share a few videos from her martial arts training session. The actress also hinted at a new endeavour and said that something new is coming for her fans. In the video, Vaani can be seen training to land her kicks properly. Sharing a collective of three videos, the actress wrote in the caption: "Kickstarting something new .. Can I already get a black belt?"

Meanwhile, on the work front, the actress will be soon seen in the social-comedy film, titled 'Sarvagunn Sampanna', which she signed last year. She will be essaying the role of a woman in the film who fights for her integrity in society. The film is helmed by Shonali Rattan Deshmukh and started its production in August last year.

IANS

Make way for the Shero

2023 seems to be the year where women take the centrestage on screen

While most films starring a Shero, barring Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Gangubai Kathiawadi, have underperformed in recent times, 2023 seems to be a year with more room for girl power at the box office. In March, the Rani Mukerji-navigated Mrs Chatterjee Vs Norway made a neat profit for its producers Zee Studios.

A source from the production comments, "This is our first profit-earning venture since the Covid. We are convinced films starring the female hero, or the shero as you call them, have a bright future. Samantha in Shaakuntalam, which will release in multiple languages on April 14, followed by Priyanka Chopra Jonas in the Prime Video series Citadel at the end of the month, are going to make a huge impact."

Samantha, according to reports from Hyderabad, has given a performance of a lifetime in Shaakuntalam. "Sam is at once strong and vulnerable and beguilingly beautiful as Shaakuntalam. This is her first costume drama. But she appears to be born for a ravishing, retro role such as this. She will be a global sensation after Shaakuntalam releases," a friend of the actress reveals from Hyderabad.

At month-end we have Priyanka Chopra Jonas wowing the world in Citadel.

With two true-blue sheroes all set to make a grand impact in April, it looks like 2023 belongs to them.

At the end of March in the masculine meditation on mayhem Bholaa, Ajay Devgn converted the role of the male cop in the Tamil film Kaithi to a female cop in Bholaa to give Tabu another powerhouse role to sink her teeth in.

Shabana Azmi who has played some of the most powerful sheroes is confident that girlpower will always get an audience. "Whether it is Rani, Tabu, Priyanka or Samantha, these are strong, beautiful women and terrific actresses to boot. Indian cinema will always have a place for them to shine."

— ETimes